

Cassandra

CIA: Some Scores and Strikeouts

WASHINGTON.

THE Central Intelligence Agency—now accused of monstrous failure in Cuba—is, by deliberate design, the agency almost nobody knows.

It's a place where the telephone is answered by number only, where waste paper is put into stapled bags marked secret, where the lie detector is a standard tool of hiring and firing.

It is housed in a new building in nearby Langley, Va., hidden from view of the passing highways by huge bushes.

This is the central home of the Nation's spies—America's answer to Russian subversion.

No average citizen can gauge how effective the CIA may be, because only a few top officials know its full story.

ITS DIRECTOR, Allen W. Dulles, is one of the few officials who could write a Government check for a million dollars and not have to tell why.

In its 14-year history, the CIA has had some spectacular successes and some spectacular failures. As it happens, two

of the most spectacular failures have come in the last year—the loss of the U-2 spy plane over Russia and the dismal failure of an attempt to topple Cuba's Castro.

But responsible sources have credited the agency with successes, too. Among them:

—Foreseeing the Hungarian revolt against the Soviets.

—Predicting Russian satellites more than a year before Sputnik.

—Alerting officials in the British, French and Israeli attack on Egypt and the Suez Canal in 1956.

THE CIA was founded in 1947 as the chief advisory group on intelligence to the President and the National Security Council.

Its assignment is to pull together all available intelligence information, to perform services of "common concern" to intelligence agencies and to do special, supersecret jobs for the NSC.

Existing intelligence set-ups in the Army, Navy, Air Force, State Depart-

ment and other departments were not abolished. They are still vital cogs in the intelligence network. The CIA simply sits at the top. It gets far beyond simply taking what it gets elsewhere, however. It has agents deployed around the world, assigned to dangerous jobs—spying, infiltrating, seeking out Communist secrets.

In addition, it maintains a large research organization designed to pull together information from news dispatches, foreign radio broadcasts, technical publications, interviews with travelers and scores of other sources.

THERE has been little discussion permitted of roles the CIA may be playing not normally associated with spying in the public mind. The Cuban situation is a case in point.

There is evidence that the CIA has been playing this kind of role for a long time. It has been fairly well documented that the CIA was behind the 1954 Guatemala revolution, which overthrew the Americas' first Communist regime.



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